



Examples of Focusing Questions for Looking at Student Work Sessions

Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.

1. About the quality of student work

- Is the work good enough?
- What is “good enough”?
- In what ways does this work meet or fail to meet a particular set of standards?

2. About teaching practice

- What do the students’ responses indicate about the effectiveness of the prompt or assignment? How might the assignment be improved?
- What kinds of instruction support high quality student performances?

3. About students’ understanding

- What does this work tell us about how well the student understands the topic of the assignment?
- What initial understandings do we see beginning to emerge in this work?

4. About students’ growth

- How does this range of work from a single student demonstrate growth over time?
- How can I support student growth more effectively?

5. About students’ intent

- What issues or questions is this student focused on?
- What aspects of the assignment intrigued this student?
- Into which parts of the assignment did the student put the most effort?
- To what extent is the student challenging him or herself? In what ways?